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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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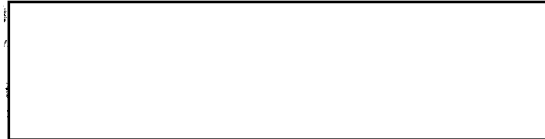
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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT VPL School in Pirna

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1. On 10 December 1951, the then Bureau for Economic Affairs ordered the agency "Gebäudeverwaltung Sonnenstein" (building administration) to be set up at Sonnenstein Castle in Pirna. The mission of this agency was to recondition buildings designed to house a school and to supervise construction work connected with the housing of a research and development institute. VP Rat Goedel (fnu) was appointed chief of the Gebäudeverwaltung. By 15 January 1952, the school had a capacity of 200 students, and the first course began on 15 February 1952. While construction work for the school was financed from funds of the Gebäudeverwaltung, accounts had to be settled with the Ministry of the Interior after the school had started operating.
2. On 15 February 1952, VP Rat Goedel donned the uniform of a VPL captain. The trainees also wore VPL uniforms. The manufacture at the carpentry shop of cut-open models of aircraft engines and models of aircraft types and airfields led source to believe that the installation was an air force school. The courses which were attended by about 200 students lasted from four to six months. Occasionally training courses extending only for a few days were apparently given to officers. The students attending the normal training courses were exclusively officer candidates, with 80 percent being men, the remainder women. It was rumored that the students, after receiving theoretical training in Pirna, would be sent to the USSR for further training. The instructors at the school were VPL officers.
3.  source saw a decree of the Ministry of the Interior, according to which the school was to be transferred after 1 July.  the school was to be moved to Halle. The vacated buildings in Pirna were to be used by the "Zentrale Fachschule fuer die Flugzeugindustrie" (Technical School for Aviation Industry).

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Comment. The Materials Testing Laboratory of the future East German Aviation Industry is located at Sonnenstein Castle in Pirna. The installation is subordinated to the Main Administration for the Transport and Machinery Industry at 24-32 Koethener Strasse in Dessau, which again is assigned to the Ministry for the Transport and Agricultural Machinery Industry. The Technical School for the Aviation Industry is attached to the Materials Testing Laboratory. The installations mentioned have nothing to do with VPL installations, which are subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior. In order to underline this difference, the VPL training courses previously held in Pirna were moved to some other place, possibly Halle. The exact character of these training courses has not been determined. It appears that meteorological and signal courses besides courses for future VPL engineers were held in Pirna.

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